REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is amended in order to more distinctly claim the invention. The amendment is supported by the specification, especially the last paragraph on page 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected as anticipated by Pardee et al. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons that follow.

Pardee et al, at claim 94, discloses to administer a combination of a G1 or S phase drug with a G2/M phase drug to treat multiple myeloma. The reference further discloses, at claim 97, a list of G2/M drugs that includes epothilones. Table 1 on page 3 again discloses a list of G2/M drugs that includes epothilones and indicates epothilones A, B, C and D under the column "Chemical Formula." However, in each instance, epothilone B is merely one of several choices for the G2/M drug to be combined with the G1 or S phase drug. Moreover, there is no example of myeloma being treated with such a combination. Since the present claims are limited to the treatment of myeloma with epothilone B, and since the reference does not specifically disclose any treatment involving epothilone B, alone or in combination, the present claims not anticipated by the reference. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(b).

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Pardee et al. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons that follow.

The reference does not disclose that myeloma can be treated with epothilone B, or any G2/M phase drug, in the absence of a G1 or S phase drug. Moreover, the reference does not contain any data demonstrating the efficacy of the combinations. Therefore, the skilled artisan would construe any disclosure relating to combination therapies to be speculative, and, at best, consider combinations of epothilone B with a G1 or S phase drug obvious to try.

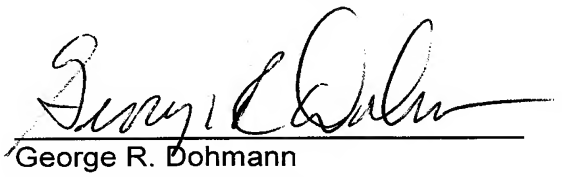
The present claims do not specifcally require concommitant treatment with a G1 or S phase drug. However, they also do not exclude it. To the extent that such treatment is within the scope of the present claims, the present claims are merely obvious to try over the disclosure of Pardee et al for the reasons discussed above. Since obvious to try is not the proper standard

for a rejection under 35 USC 103, the present claims are not obvious over Pardee et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) over Pardee et al is requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35USC 103(a) over Pardee et al in view of Ojima et al. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection over Pardee et al.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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